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PRACTICAL NESTING-BOXES FOR BIRDS

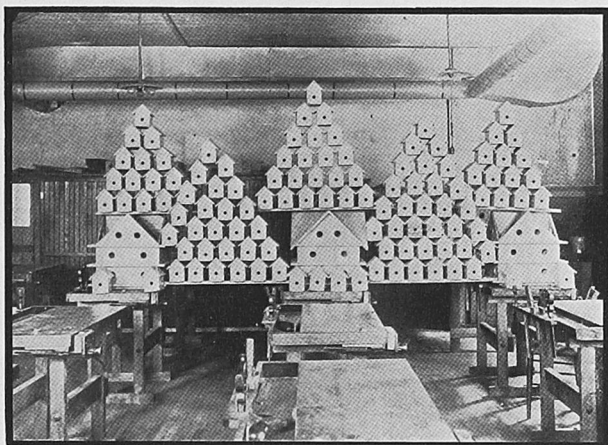
By T. GILBERT PEARSON

AT this season the subject of providing nesting-boxes for wild birds is claiming the attention of hundreds of thousands of bird-lovers throughout the land.

Many of these structures that one sees as one goes about the country are totally impracticable for the purpose for which they were designed, and the birds do not use them. There is a widespread idea that the right kind of a box for a bird is a miniature human dwelling. That is, many people build boxes with the entrance-hole on a level with

the floor, just like the door of a house. As a matter of fact the entrance-hole should always be well elevated above the floor. Bearing in mind that the natural nesting-places of birds that build in hollow trees are decayed cavities, which lead downward from a knot hole, or an abandoned woodpecker's nest which is always dug below the doorway, one can readily understand just the form a bird-box should take. Here are given some illustrations of bird-houses which can be built by any one.

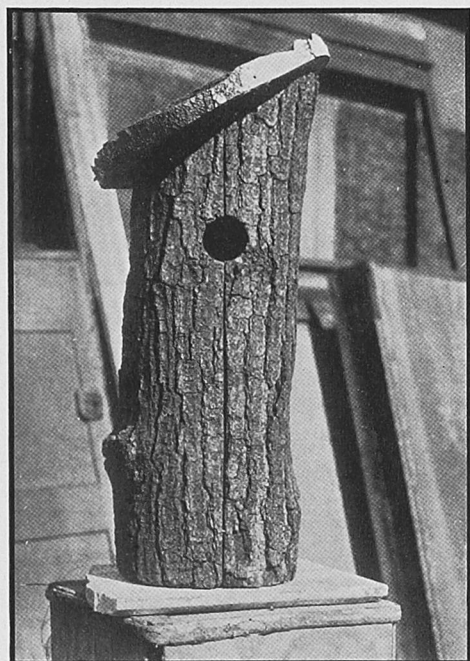
T. Gilbert Pearson



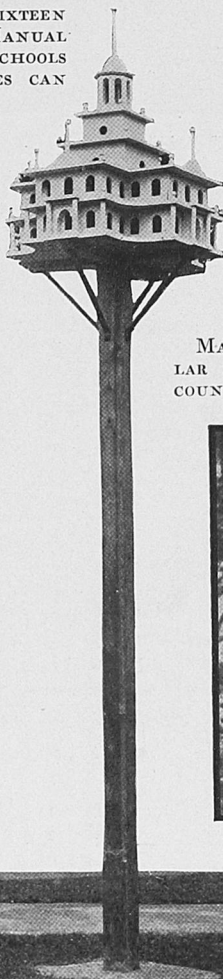
THREE MARTIN HOUSES AND A HUNDRED AND SIXTEEN WREN BOXES MADE BY STUDENTS IN THE MANUAL TRAINING DEPARTMENT IN ONE OF THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ELGIN, ILLINOIS. EVERY ONE OF THESE BOXES CAN BE USED BY THE BIRDS



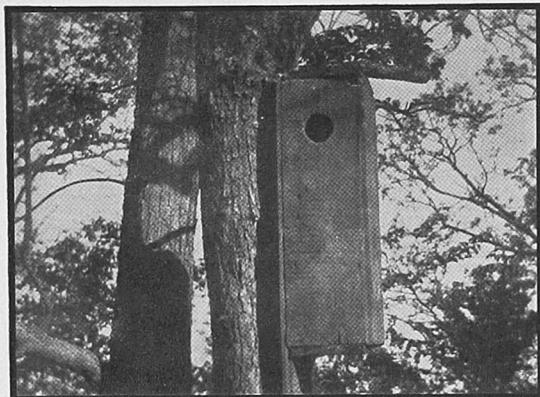
MANY BIRD-BOXES NOW BEING ERECTED ARE VERY ARTISTIC. THIS ONE WITH A THATCHED ROOF WAS BUILT BY AN INGENIOUS SCHOOLBOY IN NEW JERSEY



THE IDEAL BIRD-BOX IS THE ONE THAT MORE NEARLY REPRESENTS A WOODPECKER'S NESTING CAVITY. THIS IS MADE BY SAWING LENGTHWISE A SECTION OF A SMALL LOG



MARTIN HOUSES ARE BECOMING POPULAR IN MANY TOWNS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY



NESTING-BOX MADE OF BOARDS AND NAILED TO A TREE BY F. PELLETTE OF IOWA. THE BOTTOM OF THE BOX IS COVERED WITH AN INCH LAYER OF SAWDUST. A SPARROW-HAWK HERE LAID HER EGGS AND REARED HER YOUNG